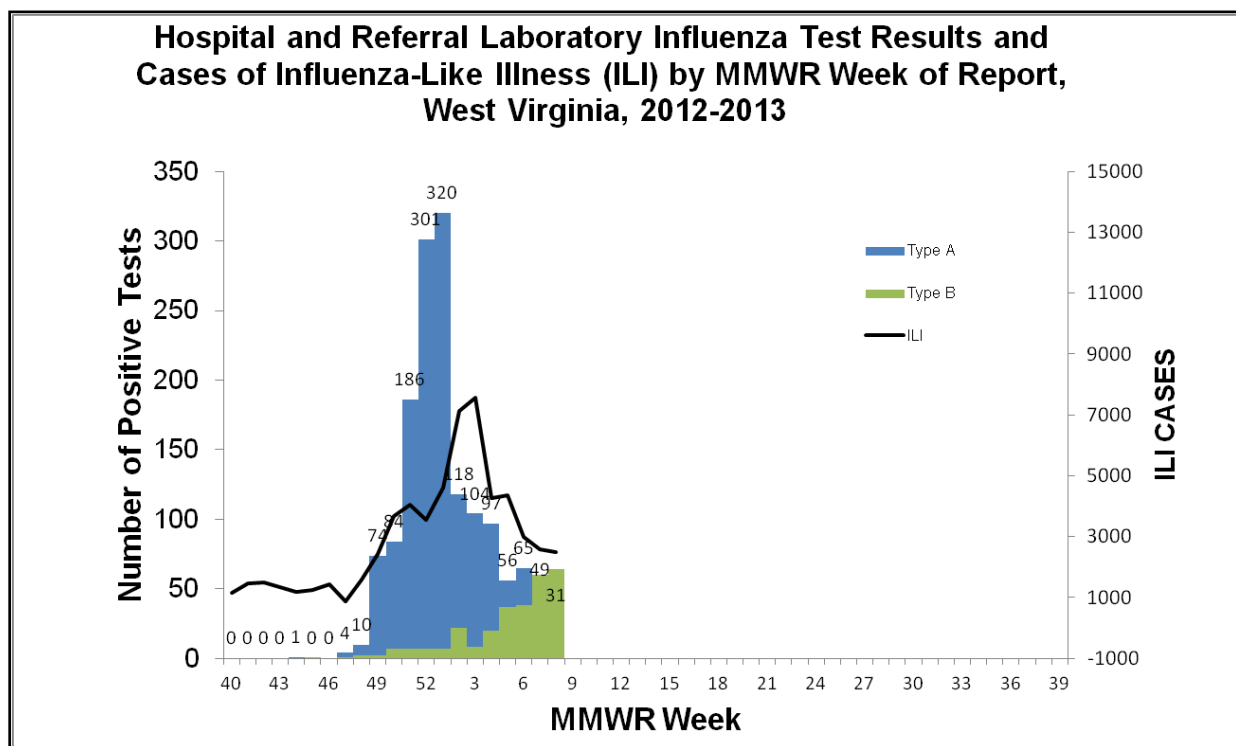


West Virginia Influenza Summary, Week Ending February 23, 2013 (MMWR Week 8)

Dear Influenza Partners,

West Virginia has reported influenza activity as **“Regional”** for MMWR week 8 (week ending Saturday February 23, 2013).

An overall downward trend in influenza activity has been observed over the past several weeks. The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was at 1.6%. The number of respiratory specimens testing positive for Influenza B remains elevated and an increase in school reporting ILI or influenza outbreaks has increased. Influenza B doesn't often dominate during flu seasons, and mortality in seasons involving the strain are typically less severe than Influenza A strains. Influenza B tends to affect school aged children more frequently and this appears to be what we are seeing currently in West Virginia.



Influenza activity is declining nationally, however some areas the activity level remains high. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI was 2.7%; this is above that national baseline of 2.2%.

Weekly influenza surveillance graphs for West Virginia can be found at the website:

<http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>. Because of late reporting, we must sometimes update information in retrospect. The website will always have the most up-to-date numbers. Please feel free to contact us at (304)-558-5358, extension 1, with any questions regarding this report.